

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LAFAYETTE PUBLIC UTILITIES AUTHORITY OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2003.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL: Rob Stevenson (Chair), Chris Williams, Jerry Trumps, Marc Mouton

ABSENT: Louis C. Benjamin, Jr.

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk), Anne Patin (Senior Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Terry Huval (Utilities Director)

COMMENCEMENT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001) AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Rob Stevenson called the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority Meeting of December 16, 2003, to order.

EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(005) AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: President's Report.

No report.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(006) AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: LUS Director's Report.

No report.

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(007) AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: O-043-2003 (LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority authorizing the Lafayette City-Parish President, Walter Comeaux, to execute an Act of Cash Sale whereby the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government will sell certain real estate located in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, to Shawnee Farms, L.L.C., motion to adopt by Trumps, seconded by Mouton, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Huval stated this was the same piece of property that LUS requested to purchase last year for a landfarm site. It came under controversy in St. Landry Parish. Since that time LUS has found a site with the Lafayette Parish School Board, which was approved by the Council several months ago. The St. Landry site was purchased for \$800,000. One bid has been submitted by Shawnee Farms, L.L.C., and their offer was \$801,500. He then urged approval.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(049) AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: O-045-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority providing for the abandonment of a portion of a utility easement on Lots 57 and 58 of Brookhollow Subdivision, having municipal addresses of 302 Creekside Drive and 300 Creekside Drive, respectively, motion to adopt by Mouton, seconded by Trumps, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(059) AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: O-046-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority amending the FY 03/04 Operating Budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government by appropriating funds for the existing FOCA-New Roofs

and Renovations Project in the amount of \$800,000, motion to adopt by Williams, seconded by Mouton, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Huval explained that this ordinance addresses the Administration and Field Operations facilities at LUS on Walker Road. The buildings are 12 and 15 years old and are experiencing leaks in both. Appropriate repairs are needed to maintain the integrity of the facilities. He urged adoption of this ordinance. Upon questioning by Stevenson, Huval explained that this would not put any other project in jeopardy because it will be paid through Retained Earnings and bonds.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(121) AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: O-047-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority amending the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government Code of Ordinances Section 94-85(b) to provide for a 5% late payment charge for commercial utilities customers, motion to adopt by Mouton, seconded by Trumps, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Upon questioning by Broussard, Huval explained that six years ago he came before the Council and LPUA to recommend a “late payment” charge for customers in the rate structure. The late fee was set at a \$5.00 charge for both residential and commercial accounts. In researching this, over the last couple of months, it was found that other utility companies were charging 5% and up. By adding a 5% late fee on the gross amount of the bill on the commercial customers, it will create a behavior change with the customers who are electing to hold their payment until it’s 20 days overdue. Upon questioning by Williams, Huval explained that there are about 18,000 late payments from commercial customers annually.

Mouton then inquired about the Balanced Billing Program. Huval answered there were about 100 customers who signed up but as summer gets closer there will be more.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(248) AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: O-048-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority amending the FY 03/04 Operating Budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated by decreasing Director’s Reserve and increasing amounts appropriated for salaries and benefits for the Transmission and Distribution Division in the amount of \$6,869, motion to adopt by Mouton, seconded by Trumps.

An amendment was offered by Trumps, seconded by Mouton as follows: “to change \$6,869 to \$55,325 in the title; in Section 1 change \$6,869 to \$8,980; add a new Section 2: The FY 03/04 Operating Budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government is also hereby amended by decreasing Director’s Reserve and increasing salaries and benefits in the Water Distribution, Water Production and Wastewater Collection Divisions by \$34,154; add a new Section 3: The FY 03/04 Operating Budget of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government is also hereby amended by decreasing Director’s Reserve and increasing salaries and benefits in the Customer Service Division by \$12,191; and changing Sections 2, 3 and 4 to Section 4, 5 and 6).

Huval explained that this ordinance was introduced in anticipation of Civil Service action on the realignment of several Linemen in the Transmission & Distribution Division. Since the time they were introduced, the Civil Service Director has apprised LUS of an additional Lineman needing realignment. Consequently, the Department is requesting that the ordinance and budget revision reflect this. In addition, two other Civil Service actions necessitate changes in LUS’ our budget. LUS is requesting that said ordinance also be amended to reflect these two items, 1) Changes in Water and Wastewater Divisions – a. Reallocation of Utility Repairmen to Maintenance Workers, b. Pay range adjustments to Water Plant Operators due to certification requirements, and 2) Changes in Customer Service Division – As the new Customer and Meter Service Administrator position is filled, there will be some shifting of personnel that will require additional funding.

Upon questioning by Williams, Huval explained that the request for \$6,869 was for two employees, contemplating LUS would hire more experienced people thus no realignment would be necessary. However, the people hired had less experience so now an realignment is necessary. Civil Service will ratify this on December 17, 2003. There should not be any further changes in the near future. If there is, it will be taken care of through the mid-year budget adjustments or at budget time.

Williams requested that Huval provide a synopsis on the two (2) different pay raises and also provide demographic information on who was being affected in terms of gender and ethnicity.

The Chair called for a vote on the ordinance as amended, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(710) AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: O-049-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority authorizing the Lafayette City-Parish President and the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority Chair to enter into an Intergovernmental and Joint Cooperative Agreement with the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority for the transfer of a Bentley Nevada Turbine Vibration System no longer needed for public purposes, motion to adopt by Trumps, seconded by Mouton, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Upon questioning by Stevenson, Huval stated that the LEPA units seem to be smaller and older units than what LUS has. Ledoux added that LEPA would use these for parts as the older components fail on their older system.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(014) AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: O-051-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority amending Ordinance No. O-024-2003 (LPUA) adopting the operating and capital budgets of the Utilities Department for the Fiscal Year beginning November 1, 2003 and ending October 31, 2004, motion to adopt by Trumps, seconded by Mouton, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Benjamin

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

Huval explained that at the time the budget was approved there was part of the budget ordinance that included exempting certain employees from the 4% across the board raise that was provided to all other employees. Those exempted employees were approved for the market-sensitive pay plan. Subsequent to that ordinance having been passed, the Civil Service Board indicated that such a discretionary or discriminatory omission of those employees, compared to the other employees being provided with the general increase, is not in keeping with the Civil Service Rules.

The Chair then recessed the LPUA Meeting until after the Regular Council Meeting. Huval will give his presentation on LPUA Agenda Item 10 at the Regular Council Meeting under Agenda Item No. 23.

Upon adjournment of the Regular Council Meeting, Chair Stevenson reconvened the LPUA Meeting.

(TAPE 3)(SIDE B)(215) AGENDA ITEM NO. 10 O-050-2003(LPUA) An ordinance of the Lafayette Public Utilities Authority declaring the 2004 Electric Power Generation Addition Project a public necessity and authorizing the acquisition of the necessary rights-of-way and other property rights requisite to the construction, operation and/or maintenance of said project, either on an amicable basis or through the expropriation process, if necessary, motion to adopt by Menard, seconded by Trumps, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Williams, Benjamin, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

Motion was unanimously approved.

The following individual was recognized:

Louis Kellogg was not present when called upon.

At this point, the Chair recognized Councilmember Trumps. Trumps stated that this was his last vote on the Council and LPUA. He appreciated serving with each one of the Councilmembers and noted that many good things were done.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

(TAPE 3)(SIDE B)(260) AGENDA ITEM NO. 12 Comments from the public on other matters.

No comments.

ADJOURN

(TAPE 3)(SIDE B)(261) There being no further business to come before the LPUA, Chair Stevenson declared the meeting adjourned.

NORMA A. DUGAS, CLERK
LAFAYETTE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL